

**REMARKS**

The applicant acknowledges with appreciation the complete and thorough review which the Examiner has made on this patent application.

In responding thereto, the applicant has cancelled claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 in order to reduce the number of claims. Accordingly, the claims remaining are 1, 2, 7, 8 and 12, which are amended extensively to better define the invention.

The Examiner demonstrates his understanding of the invention as presented in the present specification from his observations in pages 2-4 of the Office Action and by requesting the further clarification on page 4. However, this request is not understood, and if this is to be repeated, a more detailed explanation of what is needed would be helpful.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claim 4 is held "not enabled". This is not understood by the applicant, and therefore, it is difficult to respond, i.e., is claim 4 rejected or objected to?

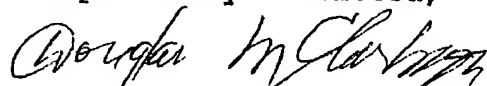
The claims 1 and 12 stand rejected as unpatentable over patent No. 5,894,328 to Tahara et al. in view of a patent No. 6,038,00 to Hurst, Jr. However, there is no such patent on the Notice of References Cited.

There is a patent No. 6,038,000 to Hurst, Jr., Robert Norman included among the 9 patents listed on the Notice of References Cited, and therefore, the applicant assumes this is the patent that the Examiner intended to identify. Nevertheless, the applicant is uncertain and requests clarification.

All of the references, including the Tahara et al. and the Hurst, Jr., Robert Norman patents, have been studied in detail, and clearly, each these patents teach away from the present invention. Accordingly, it is submitted that this basis of rejection is untenable.

Moreover, the present invention involves so much more than just decoding time stamps or their use in different environments. The claimed invention involves a method for processing packets of digitally encoded streams of data in order to determine whether a data underflow is likely. In addition, it is submitted that the present claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 12, as presented now, are limited to this method. Therefore, an early allowance is submitted to be in order and is earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,



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